

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-01 OMB-01

CEA-01 COME-00 FRB-01 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01

CU-02 SCCT-01 SCA-01 /096 W  
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R 031957Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5463  
INFO USMISSION USUN NY  
AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA  
AMCONSUL MAZATLAN  
AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO  
AMCONSUL MERIDA  
AMCONSUL MONTERREY  
AMCONSUL TIJUANA  
AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO  
AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ  
AMCONSUL MATAMOROS  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 0050

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MX PBOR

SUBJECT: MONTHLY POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS - DECEMBER 1974.

### 1. INTRODUCTION:

MEXICO IN MID-DECEMBER APPEARED TO PASS THROUGH A  
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MINI-CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE, CHARACTERIZED BY AN OUTPOURING

OF OFFICIAL CONDEMNATIONS OF "OBSCURE FOREIGN FORCES," "BAD MEXICANS", "MINORITY INTERESTS WHOSE PRIVILEGES ARE AFFECTED BY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S REVOLUTIONARY POLICIES". AFTER THE PRESIDENT WAS SPECTATOR TO A SENATE SHOW OF SUPPORT (ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY) DEC 16, THE RHETORIC ABATED AND A FEELING OF BUSINESS AS USUAL RETURNED. WHAT WAS MOST PUZZLING WAS THE ABSENCE OF ANY SINGLE FACTOR WHICH MIGHT ACCOUNT FOR THE VIRTUAL HYSTERIA. SEVERAL UNRELATED THINGS MAY HAVE BEEN COMBINED TO PRODUCE WHAT ONE COLUMNIST CALLED AN "EXORCISM OF DEMONS" - RENEWAL OF TERRORISM, A BIZARRE RUMOR THAT SCHOOL CHILDREN WERE BEING STERILIZED, AND A STATEMENT BY CIA DIRECTOR COLBY INTERPRETED HERE TO MEAN THE US ASSERTED A RIGHT TO INTERVENE IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF EVEN FRIENDLY COUNTRIES (SEE MEXICO 10599).

MEANWHILE GOM BASKED IN CERDS APPROVAL, THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION SHAPED UP A BIT, THE MEXICAN ARMY KILLED GUERRILLA LEADER LUCIO CABANAS, AND MRS. ECHEVERRIA PREPARED TO HEAD A TRAVELLING FERRY BOAT SHOW TO FOUR CARIBBEAN NATIONS, INCLUDING CUBA.

## 2. CERDS APPROVAL AND GOM REACTION TO NEGATIVE US VOTE

MEXICO REJOICED IN THE UNGA APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES, PREDICTABLY LABELING IT A TRIUMPH FOR MEXICO AND THE THRID WORLD. ALTHOUGH THE INITIAL REACTION TO NEGATIVE US VOTE WAS LOW KEY, MOST MEXICANS TOOK AMB. SCALI'S "TYRANNY OF THE MAJORITY" SPEECH AS US COMMENT ON CERDS, IGNORING THE MEASURED EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SEN. PERCY.

WHILE FONSEC RABASA EXPRESSED BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT OVER NEGATIVE US VOTE AND OPINED US HAD MADE A "GRIEVOUS MISTAKE," PRES. ECHEVERRIA REPORTEDLY WAS TAKING THE MATTER PHILOSOPHICALLY, HAVING DECIDED NOT "TO MAKE AN ISSUE" OUT OF THE MATTER, AT LEAST NOT AT THIS TIME.

## 3. MEXICO SENDING CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC MISSION TO FOUR CONFIDENTIAL

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CARIBBEAN NATIONS

MRS. MARIA ESTER ZUNO ECHEVERRIA WILL LEAD A MISSION OF APPROXIMATELY 400 PERSONS ON A ONE MONTH FERRY-BOAT TRIP (JANUARY 2-FEBRUARY 3) TO CUBA, JAMAICA, VENEZUELA AND COSTA RICA. THE GROUP WILL INCLUDE A SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA AND A TROOP OF FOLKLORIC DANCERS, AS WELL AS NUMEROUS ARTISTS AND WRITERS. AMB. GONZELO MARTINEZ

CORBALA, DESIGNATED THE HEAD OF THE FOREIGN SECRETARIAT PART OF THE MISSION, IS CURRENTLY MEXICO'S AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE TO LATIN AMERICA. HE SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO CHILE DURING THE ALLENDE REGIME, AND HAS MAINTAINED CLOSE CONTACT WITH CHILEAN EXILES IN MEXICO. SINCE MRS. ECHEVERRIA AND MARTINEZ CORBALA ARE WELL KNOWN ADMIRERS OF THE ALLENDE AND CASTRO GOVERNMENTS, EMBASSY ANTICIPATES THEY WILL BE WARMLY RECEIVED IN CUBA AND THAT U.S. MAY BE BUTT OF SOME RHETORICAL UNPLEASANTNESS DURING THEIR STAY THERE. MEANWHILE, IN REPLY TO REPORTER'S QUESTION WHEN HE WOULD TAKE UP STANDING INVITATION TO VISIT CUBA, PRES. ECHEVERRIA SAID HE WOULD MAKE NO FOREIGN TRIPS IN 1975.

#### 4. DEATH OF CABANAS/RESUMPTION OF TERRORISM

ON DECEMBER 2 THE MEXICAN ARMY FINALLY ELIMINATED ITS NEMESIS - LUCIO CABANAS BARRIENTOS, MEXICO'S ONLY GUERRILLA KNOWN BY NAME TO THE MEXICAN PUBLIC. CABANAS' END CAME IN A SHOOTOUT WITH ARMY TROOPS NORTHWEST OF ACAPULCO IN GUERRERO STATE. CABANAS' "POOR PEOPLE'S PARTY" HAS APPARENTLY BEEN DESTROYED AS AN EFFECTIVE FORCE, ALTHOUGH A CABANAS LIEUTENANT REPORTEDLY IS OPERATING IN THE HIDALGO-VERACRUZ MOUNTAINS.

EVEN BEFORE CABANAS' DEATH, URBAN TERRORIST VIOLENCE RESUMED WITH EXPLOSIONS IN THREE MEXICAN CITIES NOV. 17. ON DEC 10 THE 23 OF SEPT COMMUNIST LEAGUE ROBBED TWO MEXICO CITY BANKS AND ON DEC 21 THREE BOMBS EXPLODED IN MEXICO CITY.

ALTHOUGH IT IS TOO SOON TO CONFIRM A TREND, RESORT TO ROBBERIES AND BOMBINGS MAY BE THE RESULT OF TERRORISTS' DECISION THAT HIT AND RUN VIOLENCE IS LESS RISKY THAN  
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POLITICAL KIDNAPPINGS (SEE MEXICO 10772).

#### 5. PRESIDENT SUCCESSION - HANK GONZALEZ SAYS HE'S OUT

LAST MONTH'S POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS CABLE REPORTED PRI PRESIDENT JESUS REYES HEROLES HAD DECLARED THAT THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MEXICO HANK GONZALEZ HAD RISEN ALREADY TO THE "HIGHEST POSITION TO WHICH HE COULD ASPIRE". ALTHOUGH SOME SAW IN HANK'S RESPONSE A DETERMINATION TO STAY IN THE RACE, HANK GAVE A LENGTHY INTERVIEW DECEMBER 13 TO MEXICO CITY'S LEADING DAILY, EXCELSIOR, IN WHICH HE CATEGORICALLY STATED HE DID NOT ASPIRE NOR WOULD HE ASPIRE TO THE PRESIDENCY.

#### 6. 1975 - YEAR OF THE CAMPESINO

IN DECEMBER THE GOM AND THE PRI TOOK THREE STEPS TO GEAR ITSELF FOR A 1975 ASSAULT ON MEXICO'S AGRARIAN PROBLEMS: (1) AN 80 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE 1975 BUDGET ALLOTMENT FOR AGRICULTURE (MEXICO 10349), TO 4.8 BILLION DOLLARS; (2) THE UPGRADING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN AFFAIRS AND COLONIALIZATION TO A SECRETARIAT (CABINET LEVEL), (MEXICO 10771); AND (3) AN AMOEBA-LIKE EMBRACE BY THE PRI'S AGRARIAN SECTOR, THE NATIONAL PEASANTS CONFEDERATION, OF THREE MILDLY DISSIDENT AGRARIAN ORGANIZATIONS (MEXICO 10801) IN SIGNING A SOLIDARITY PACT OF SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S AGRARIAN POLICIES.

#### 7. MEXICAN CONGRESS ENDS SESSION IN HOLIDAY RUSH

AS IF TO GIVE CHALLENGE TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH'S OCCASIONAL DISPLAY OF INDEPENDENCE DURING THE 1974 SESSION, THE GOM EXECUTIVE BRANCH SENT MORE THAN A DOZEN INITIATIVES TO THE CONGRESS IN THE LAST FIVE DAYS OF THE SESSION, THE LAST WORKING DAY OF WHICH WAS DECEMBER 30. IN A FEVER OF "APROBONAMIA" (APPROVALITIS) THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES RUBBERSTAMPED FIVE BILLS ONE DAY AND SEVEN THE NEXT, THEREBY LOSING A CERTAIN MEASURE OF RESPECT EARNED DURING THE COURSE OF THE SESSION.

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